

**From:** Jim Thiros  
**To:** NRDOMAIN.NROGM.WHEDBERG  
**Date:** 2/27/96 8:01am  
**Subject:** Southwest Assay

Wayne,

Lamar Bluth called me at 4:15 yesterday about the chemical containers at the site. He said "I wanted to do the right thing", so I told him to go visit Pete Stevenson (EPA) at the Leeds Reclamation site. He said he would, and that they would go look at the chemical containers.

I guess it would be appropriate to wait and see what happens between Mr. Bluth and Pete Stevenson.

Thanks for your help and concern,  
Jim Thiros

**CC:** SThirot

**From:** Wayne Hedberg  
**To:** LBraxton, Minerals  
**Date:** 2/27/96  
**Subject:** JUDCO/CHRISTIE MILL HEAP status update

Good News!!

Jim Thiros of DERR called me this morning with the latest update on the status of the chemical contamination issue at the Christie Mill Tailing Heap Leach (a.k.a. - South West Assay) site. Mr. Lamar Bluth (land owner) returned Jim's call yesterday afternoon and they discussed the chemical contamination concerns at the site. Mr. Bluth stated he "wanted to do the right thing". Jim advised Mr. Bluth to go over to the 5M/Silver Reef remediation site and speak with Pete Stevenson (EPA). Mr. Bluth did speak with Mr. Stevenson and has arranged to have one of EPA's Silver Reef remediation contractor's (Smith Environmental, or Ridell??) clean up the discarded chemicals and containers in the lined pond on his property. This will probably be done in concert with the ongoing clean up actions being performed at the 5M Silver Reef site. Estimated cost is @\$1500-2000 to containerize and properly dispose (incinerate?) of these materials. The hazardous chemicals should at least be dry packed in drums and secured for subsequent removal from the site by mid-March.

Mr. Thiros stated that Smith Environmental will also be performing some limited testing and analysis of the existing heap to determine if there are any residual cyanide related chemical compounds of concern in the heap. Following that assessment, an appropriate plan will be developed to level, berm and cap the heap. DERR will probably act as the primary contact to review the plan and oversee its implementation. If we need to be actively involved with the closure action, we should advise DERR as soon as possible. Jim said he will keep us advised and copied with information as this process progresses.

Apparently there is a buyer who has offered to purchase Mr. Bluth's private property (as is, where is). Of primary interest to the buyer is the existing water rights associated with the property. Jim indicated that Mr. Bluth stated he wanted to have the site cleaned up first.

Unless I am advised otherwise, I do not believe we need to approve of the closer/reclamation plan for this site. This small processing site was never permitted with our office having ceased active heap leaching activities before our Small Mining Operations rules went into effect (1986-87). The heap leaching operations have never been reactivated.

A copy of this note will be sent to the mine file - S/053/006.

**CC:** CRohrer, MWright, TMitchell, JThiros